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Title: Need to construct a new dam at the site of Mullaperiyar dam.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA) : I request the Government to save the lives of 35 lakh people in Kerala who are in fear of the impending burst of 121 year-old Mullaperiyar Dam. The Mullaperiyar Dam was built by the British in 1895 and at present is operated by the Government of Tamil Nadu, based on a 999-year lease agreement. The Dam has developed many cracks and leaks due to seismic activities since 2000. According to the experts, the area where Mullaperiyar Dam is located comes in Zone 3 seismic category, therefore, vulnerable to earthquakes of magnitude upto six on the Richer scale. Experts also warn that even a mild tremor within a radius of 16 km of the Dam may burst it. Kerala is not against ceding water to Tamil Nadu but our concern is about the safety of people in case of the collapse of the Mullaperiyar Dam. Therefore, I request the Government to kindly take urgent steps to build a new dam at the site of Mullaperiyar Dam.